

My name is Kory Mills and I am here representing the interests of Central Connecticut State University. I graduated from University High School in Hartford Connecticut, May 2010. I had two choices for College: Trinity College and CCSU. I grew up in Hartford under the shadow of Trinity College, and as a young Latino male growing up on Campfield Ave, attending Trinity was a dream come true. However, when it came time to decide between both colleges I was accepted to both. Immediately I wanted to go to Trinity, and not central. I tell you all of this and it sounds like I'm not in favor of Central but the reality of the situation is that my family could never have afforded for me to attend Trinity College. I don't want to brag, but my GPA in high school was considerably great, I was offered an academic scholarship, but that my family was asked to contribute 20,000 a year. My family could not afford it. So I decided to go to Central, it was a local college with ties to my community, with a good curriculum, my family had been attached to Central for years, and most importantly, it was cost effective. You see, the government doesn't recognize that my family needs financial assistances. Even though my sister and I are first generation college students who live in a family that is trying to pay off their house, take care of elderly grandparents, and who watches at least three of my younger cousins each week. So you see, Central was really the only choice. The other CSUs are too far to commute, UConn and uhart costs considerably more. Now I don't mention community colleges for any particular reason than both of my parents didn't attend college. My mother works at Hartford High School as a paraprofessional and only now has her associates and my father spent 20 years serving our country in the costs guard. They're dream was for my sister and I to graduate from a four year college. And so I went to Central, and I have loved every second of it.

I am here today because I have been told that it is the Board of Regents intention to raise tuition by 9% for the CSU schools, **15% for community colleges**, or **implement a 6%**

**reduction in full time staff.** All of these amounts are devastating. When I first enrolled at Central, tuition was \$3,900 and it has increased \$4,400. And now there are talks of more increases. I find that hard to believe that now, when college students need help the most, we are charging more. The future of this state attends our Connecticut State Universities and Community Colleges and we want them to pay more for an education that they are going to use to make this state better? As for a reduction in full time staff? That is just as incredulous. The faculty at Central is amazing. And the best thing about the fulltime faculty that I've had is that they are professionals. They're job is to teach the youth of our state and they do it very well. The History department and Student leadership department at CCSU are some of the most outstanding people, and are we going to repay them for their service by removing them? We might not be the jewel of the state, we might not attract as many people from Outside Connecticut as UCONN does, our basketball team might not bring glory to our fair state, but the CSU's and Community colleges keep our students in CT. We are in it for the long hall. Of the six college age adults on my street, four of us went to CSU's. Of my relatives who have gone to or are currently enrolled in college, 6 of us have gone to CCSU including my grandmother, 3 of us have gone to either Capital or MCC and then to a CSU, and one of us went to UCONN, but we don't talk about her. I'd like to end this testimony by saying that I have nothing to gain from being here today. I am graduating in May after spending the last five years of my life at Central Connecticut State University. In my time I have served as the President of the Latin American Dance Club, The Treasurer of the Latin American Student Organization, as a Senator on the Student Government, as a Lead Orientation leader, and I am currently serving my second term as Treasurer of the Student Government. I understand budgets, and I understand that I owe my

university a debt that can never be repaid. I am who I am because of CCSU and another tuition increase is not what my university or the students that attend it need.